

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9147

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 16229

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG AO XJ

SUBJ: GOE OFFICIAL'S VIEWS ON ANGOLA AND OTHER AFRICAN ISSUES

1. DURING MEETING WITH STAFFDEL MORAN AND POLCOUNS NOVEMBER 22  
NEW MFA DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS AMBASSADOR AHMAD SIDKI  
(FORMERLY OAU REP TO UN ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA) MADE THE  
FOLLOWING COMMENTS OF INTEREST:

2. ANGOLA. PRESIDENT NETO IS A MODERATE LEADER BENT ON  
INDEPENDENT COURSE FOR ANGOLA ALTHOUGH THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
IS FULL OF RADICAL MARXISTS. EGYPT IS WORKING TO STRENGTHEN  
NETO'S POSITION AND HOPES TO MULTIPLY CONTACTS WITH HIS GOVERN-  
MENT. US SHOULD DO SAME BY INCREASING ITS CONTACTS WITH  
GOA IN ORDER TO BALANCE SOVIET PRESENCE. SIDKI'S UNDERSTANDING  
IS THAT CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE WILL BE PHASED OUT GRADUALLY  
LEAVING ONLY TECHNICIANS ONCE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT IS IN FULL  
CONTROL OF THE RAILWAY. WHILE HE ADMITTED THIS SCENARIO WAS  
PUT FORTH SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, HE STILL BELIEVES IT IS APPROPRIATE.  
HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY FACT THAT ANGOLA BEING TREATED AS ONE OF  
FIVE FRONT LINE STATES VIS-A-VIS NAMIBIA AND BY U.S. ANNOUNCEMENT  
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IT WOULD NOT VETO ANGOLA'S UN APPLICATION.

3. US SUPPORT FOR EGYPT. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EGYPT KEEPS ITS LEVERAGE WITH AFRICAN STATES IN ORDER TO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE LEADERSHIP ROLE IN INTEREST OF AFRICA AND THE WEST. IF RESPONSIBLE STATES SUCH AS EGYPT DO NOT PLAY THIS ROLE, OTHER MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS ARE READY TO TAKE OVER. SIDKI FELT GOE HAD (PARTLY AT US URGING) MADE A MISTAKE BY NOT IMMEDIATELY REGOGNIZING MPLA GOVERNMENT. HE SAID US SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT EGYPT MUST NOT TAKE POSITIONS THAT JEOPARDIZE ITS ROLE EVEN IF US OPPOSES SUCH POSITIONS. SIDKI SAID EGYPT'S EARLY POSITION ON ANGOLA HAD DAMAGED ITS RELATIONS WITH IMPORTANT STATES LIKE NIGERIA.

4. SIDKI CITED RECENT VISIT OF GUINEA-BISSAU PRESIDENT CABRAL AS EXAMPLE OF EGYPT'S ROLE BETWEEN ARABS AND AFRICANS. DURING MEETING WITH ARAB AMBASSADORS IN CAIRO, CABRAL WAS TOLD BY AMBASSADORS THAT VISIT TO EGYPT WAS VISIT TO ALL ARABS. CABRAL HAD UNDERSTOOD FOR FIRST TIME FULL IMPORTANCE OF EGYPT AND THAT HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SADAT WERE LIKE TALKING TO ALL ARAB KINGS AND PRESIDENTS. SIDKI SAID CABRAL'S MAIN PURPOSE IN VISITING EGYPT WAS TO OBTAIN BILATERAL ASSISTANCE FROM EGYPT AND ARABS.

5. SOVIET INFILTRATION OF AFRICA. SIDKI EMPHASIZED THAT EGYPT IS NOT TAKING SOVIET INFILTRATION OF AFRICA LIGHTLY, BUT EGYPT HAS LIMITED MEANS. IT INTENDS TO BE VERY ACTIVE AND TALK WITH ALL PARTIES. PRESIDENT SADAT HAD RECENTLY MET WITH HIGH RANKING TANZANIANS THAT NYERERE HAD SENT TO TALK ABOUT SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION. EGYPT'S POSITION WAS TO BACK FULLY POSITION THAT DURING INTERIM PERIOD IN RHODESIA DEFENSE AND POLICE FORCES SHOULD BE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UK. SIDKI ALSO CITED NEW INITIATIVES EGYPT WAS TAKING TO GAIN SOME INFLUENCE WITH IDI AMIN IN ORDER TO BE IN A POSITION TO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN EAST AFRICA TO COUNTER RECENT SOVIET INITIATIVES TOWARDS AMIN. SIDKI SUGGESTED THAT US COULD ASSIST EGYPT BY (A) NOT ASKING IT TO TAKE POSITIONS THAT JEOPARDIZE ITS LEADERSHIP WITH MAJORITY OF AFRICANS AND (B) SUBSIDIZING EGYPTIAN AID TO AFRICAN STATES; E.G. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

6. DJIBOUTI. SIDKI SAID EGYPT HAD MAJOR INTEREST IN  
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STABILITY IN HORN AND IT SUPPORTED FRENCH DECISION TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE. EGYPT HAD ALSO ENCOURAGED SOMALIS TO UNDERSTAND FRENCH POSITION AND HAD HELPED BRING ABOUT RAPPROACHMENT BETWEEN FRANCE AND SOMALIA. HE BELIEVES EGYPT CAN PLAY CRITICAL ROLE IN REDUCING SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN TENSIONS OVER DJIBOUTI INDEPENDENCE. EGYPT HAD ALSO TALKED WITH ETHIOPIANS, BUT TO WHAT EFFECT HE UNCERTAIN SINCE SITUATION THERE SO CONFUSED. SIDKI SAID HE WOULD BE TAKING OVER AS CHAIRMAN OF OAU COMMITTEE

ON DJIBOUTI IN PLACE OF HIS PREDECESSOR AMBASSADOR FUAD AL-BIDIEWI, WHO GOING TO ZAIRE AS AMBASSADOR. HE ADDED THAT EGYPT WOULD BE OPENING ITS CONSULATE GENERAL IN DJIBOUTI NEXT WEEK.

7. COMMENT: SIDKI IS DYNAMIC AND ARTICULATE AND ONE OF GOE'S LEADING AFRICAN SPECIALISTS. HE SERVED FOUR YEARS AS AMBASSADOR IN DAR ES-SALAAM WHERE HE REPRESENTED EGYPT ON OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE AND PREFESSES TO KNOW PERSONALLY ANGOLAN AND OTHER SOUTHERN AFRICAN LEADERS. HE SHOULD BE VALUABLE ADDITION TO MFA EVEN THOUGH HE SEEMS TO HAVE EXAGGERATED VIEW OF EGYPT'S CAPABILITY TO INFLUENCE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS FAR FROM ITS BORDERS. HE CAN POSSIBLY BE USEFUL SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON LEADERSHIP THINKING IN ANGOLA.  
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